

## Message Text

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41

ACTION ARA-10

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INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 NEA-09 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 IO-10 SSO-00

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P 301645Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7475

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR VE

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN REACTION TO KISSINGER-ESCOVAR SALOM MEETING

1. CARACAS PAPERS ON JANUARY 30 GAVE LARGE HEADLINES TO THE SECRETARY'S JANUARY 29 BILATERAL MEETING WITH VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER RAMON ESCOVAR SALOM. BASED ON AP REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON, THE PAPERS HIGHLIGHTED ESCOVAR'S STATEMENT THAT THE MEETING HAD BEEN "EXTENSIVE, CORDIAL AND POSITIVE".
2. CARACAS PRESS NOTED THAT THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND ESCOVAR HAD LASTED FOR 65 MINUTES AND THAT ESCOVAR WAS THE FIRST LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTER INVITED TO CONSULT WITH THE SECRETARY. THE PAPERS REPORT THAT THE TWO LEADERS MADE CLEAR THAT "THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS DID NOT CREATE A SPIRIT OF CONFRONTATION, BUT REFLECT THE IMPORTANT NATIONAL DECISIONS THAT NEEDED TO BE DEALT WITH IN A SPIRIT OF COOPERATION." THE SECRETARY WAS QUOTED AS STATING THAT "I HOPE THAT THIS WILL BE ONLY THE FIRST OF SEVERAL MEETINGS," AND ESCOVAR AS REPLYING THAT "WE SHARE THE SAME HOPE IN CARACAS."
3. THE PRESS GAVE DETAILED COVERAGE TO THE ARRANGEMENTS SURROUNDING THE MEETING. THEY NOTED THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY

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ROGERS ACCOMPANIED ESCOVAR TO THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE AND

AT THE END OF THE MEETING THE SECRETARY, IN A "GESTURE OF COURTESY" PERSONALLY ACCOMPANIED ESCOVAR TO HIS CAR. THE PAPERS REPORTED THAT TH SECRETARY IN RESPONSE TO RECEIVING A COPY OF ESCOVAR'S LATEST BOOK, REPLIED THAT "WE ARE COLLEAGUES IN MANY WAYS."

4. ALSO BASED ON AP REPORTS, THE LOCAL PRESS REPORTED ESCOVAR'S PRESS CONFERENCE AT OAS HEADQUARTERS BEFORE THE MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY. PRESS GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO HIS REBUTTAL OF THE SECRETARY'S ACCUSATION THAT VENEZUELA HAD EXERCISED PRESSURE ON THE U.S. THEY QUOTED ESCOVAR'S STATEMENT THAT "TO DEMAND OBSERVATION OF THE OAS CHARTER IS NOT AN ACT OF POLITICAL PRESSURE, BUT A POLITICAL POSITION." THE PRESS ALSO NOTED HIS VIEW THAT NEITHER OPEC NOR VENEZUELA INVENTED INFLATION, AND THAT, IN RESPECT TO REOPENING THE "NEW DIALOGUE" GOOD INTENTIONS ARE EXPRESSED IN DEEDS AND LEGISLATIVE ACTION.

5. ESCOVAR REPORTEDLY STATED THAT VENEZUELA HAD NOT CREATED A WORLD OF CONFRONTATION BUT FAVORED A STRUCTURE OF COOPERATION WHICH REQUIRED THE ORGANIZATION OF A SYSTEM OF COLLECTIVE ECONOMIC SECURITY. HE REPORTEDLY STATED THAT WHILE THERE WAS A "SUSPENSION" OF THE DIALOGUE, THERE WAS "NEITHER A CANCELLATION NOR A RUPTURE," AND THAT IN TREATING THE GREAT PROBLEMS OF THE HEMISPHERE, "WE MUST BE RATIONAL".  
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